

July 14, 1999

5134 '99 JUL 20 P12:10

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 99D-0557

I am writing to protest any xenotransplant research.

The U.S. should follow Europe's lead. In January 1999, the Council of Europe (representing forty European countries) recommended a worldwide ban on xenotransplants. There are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplantation, such as aggressively promoting preventive medicine and increasing human organ donation rates.

Responsible health authorities would ban all xenotransplants outright, regardless of the species, because of the threats of interspecies virus transmission. Pigs are being considered as the source animal of choice, but pig viruses are just as dangerous as nonhuman primate viruses. And there is no evidence that pigs are any safer than nonhuman primates.

Thank you for your consideration in this urgent matter.

Yours truly,

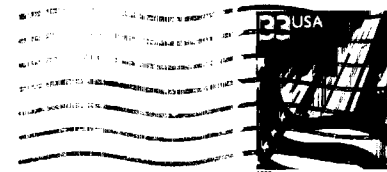
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Re: Docket No. 990-0557

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